

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 176275

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 176275

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. ITALY: SOCIALISTS MAY PUT ON A NEW FACE

THE PSI CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING HAS BEEN MARKED BY THE
DEFECTION OF KEY DEMARTINO SUPPORTERS AND THE EMERGENCE
OF BETTINO CRAXI AS A LEADING CONTENDER FOR PARTY SECRE-
TARY. EMBASSY ROME NOTES THAT CRAXI'S CANDIDACY IS FAVORED
BY:

--SUPPORT FROM YOUNGER PARTY MEMBERS OF ALL FACTIONS,
INCLUDING THE LEFT, WHO WANT A NEW GENERATION OF
LEADERSHIP;

--HIS ACCEPTABILITY TO THE OLD GUARD, TO WHOM HE REP-
RESENTS A COMFORTING CONTINUITY AS ONE WHO HAS WORKED
HIS WAY THROUGH THE RANKS; AND
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PAGE 02 STATE 176275

--THE BACKING OF THE MANCINI GROUP, WHICH IS SKILL-
FULLY OPPOSING DEMARTINO AND GIOLITTI, THE CANDIDATE
OF THE LEFT.

EMBASSY COMMENT: CRAXI'S CANDIDACY IS IN ITSELF A POSITIVE
DEVELOPMENT. HE HAS NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE PSI AND, AMONG
THE EMERGING NEW LEADERS, IS THE ONE MOST DISPOSED TO WORK
WITH THE DC. HOWEVER, IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW MUCH FREE-
DOM OF ACTION HE WOULD HAVE TO CHANGE THE PSI'S POSITIONS.
(CONFIDENTIAL) ROME 11445, 7/15.)

2. ZIMBABWE: ANC CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE

WEBSTER MUTAMBA, PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO ANC LEADER MUZOREWA,
TOLD EMBASSY MAPUTO THAT NKOMO HAS REFUSED TO REJOIN THE
ANC BECAUSE:

--HE HARBORS THE VAIN BELIEF HE CAN PERSUADE SMITH
TO NEGOTIATE WITH HIM.

--KAUNDA HAS ALREADY MADE UP HIS MIND TO SUPPORT NKOMO
AS ZIMBABWE'S FIRST AFRICAN PRESIDENT AND TO GIVE HIM
THE EXTRA SUPPORT NEEDED TO STRENGTHEN HIS POSITION.

MUTAMBA ALSO NOTED THAT THE ANC MISTRUSTS MACHEL'S PREOC-
CUPATION WITH ARMED STRUGGLE AND IDEOLOGICAL INDOCTRINA-
TION. THE "FREIMO EXPERIMENT" WOULD NOT WORK IN ZIMBABWE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE ANC IS CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE AS
KAUNDA AND MACHEL JOCKEY TO ADVANCE A SUCCESSOR TO SMITH.
THOUGH PLEASED WITH MOZAMBIQUE'S ASSISTANCE, ZIMBABWEAN
LEADERS HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT MACHEL. YET, WHILE MORE
COMFORTABLE WITH ZAMBIA'S POLITICAL SYSTEM, THEY ARE UN-
HAPPY WITH KAUNDA'S SUPPORT OF NKOMO. (CONFIDENTIAL)
MAPUTO 800, 7/14.) KISSINGER

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